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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8066
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE
RUEHAH/AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT 0038
RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ASTANA 0010
RUEHKB/AMEMBASSY BAKU 0035
RUEHDO/AMEMBASSY DOHA 0045
RUEHSI/AMEMBASSY TBILISI 0212
RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC
RHMCSUU/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 BUCHAREST 000216

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

EEB FOR DSULLIVAN, SMANN, SGALLOGLY
EUR/FO FOR MBRYZA, JGARBER
NSC FOR DWILSON, ASTERLING, LCATIPON
DOE FOR TTILLER
STATE PASS TO USTDA DSTEIN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/12/2018
TAGS: [ENRG](#) [EINV](#) [ECON](#) [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [RO](#)
SUBJECT: ROMANIA STEADFAST ON ENERGY SECURITY, BUT WARY OF BEING ISOLATED
REF: A. BUCHAREST 0088 B. STATE 9670

Classified By: DCM Mark Taplin for reasons 1.5 (b) and (d).

SUMMARY

[1](#)1. (C) With concerns growing that it is being out-maneuvered, the Government of Romania (GOR) has stepped up its energy diplomacy over recent ENERGY DIPLOMACY IN CENTRAL ASIA

[1](#)2. (C) Viorel Palasca, Romania's State Secretary for Energy at the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF), led an official delegation to Ashgabat

[1](#)3. (C) Following up on a January 23 discussion with USTDA's Dan Stein, Palasca encouraged the Turkmen to work with Azerbaijan to construct a ROMANIAN LEADERSHIP LOBBIES TURKS

[1](#)4. (C) Shortly after Palasca's trip, Bucharest played host the first week of March to a visit by Turkish President Abdullah Gul, who met with

[1](#)5. (C) Tariceanu stressed the importance of the Nabucco pipeline project to Romania and urged Turkey to conclude an agreement with Azerbaijan

[1](#)6. (C) Tariceanu then raised Romania's plans to develop the Black Sea port of Constanta as an important regional commercial hub, including a GOR PURSUING DEEPER TIES WITH AZERBAIJAN

[1](#)7. (C) Meanwhile, Secretary of State Palasca signed an Energy Cooperation Agreement in Bucharest on March 12 with his Azeri counterpart, Natiq ANXIETY RISING OVER SOUTH STREAM

[1](#)8. (C) In the meeting with econoffs, State Secretary Palasca twice expressed concern over movements by Nabucco partner countries (Bulgaria, Hu

[1](#)9. (C) Palasca stated that the GOR clearly recognizes the pivotal role of Azerbaijan in realizing the pipeline and is looking for ways to nudg IS LNG A SOLUTION?

10.(C) Meanwhile, the GOR is moving forward on the proposed LPG/LNG terminal at the port of Constanta. The Cabinet approved a memorandum recomm

11.(C) One potential delaying factor for the study will be the lack of a defined role for the ETG/UGI group after the study's conclusion. The C SOME FEAR BEING LEFT IN THE COLD

12.(C) While much of Romania's political elite remains committed to supply diversification as the best means of enhancing Romania's energy secu

13.(C) Still, Vosganian continues to advocate for stronger ties with Moscow, and has publicly downplayed the fact that Romania pays among the h

14.(C) The opposition Social Democrats (PSD) had remained largely silent on the issue of energy security until earlier this year, with criticis COMMENT

15.(C) With neighbors on their southern and western borders rushing to sign agreements with Gazprom this year, the leadership in Bucharest must TAUBMAN